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Journal & Index Weeding Proposal

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Journal & Index Weeding Proposal

Rationale

The library's 3rd floor shelving space for periodicals is badly impacted. In many areas where new volumes are still being added, there is no available space to put them, and none can be created without removing material from the shelves or undertaking major shifting projects. So many periodicals and indexes have already been relocated into locked storage that our storage areas are also nearly full. In addition, the print periodicals and indexes have seen dramatically reduced usage now that the library offers a wide selection of online journals and research databases.

Space is a scarce resource in the library. To make the most efficient use of that resource, we propose to withdraw older volumes of the print periodicals that are fully duplicated in stable online archives. ("Withdraw" means to remove a print volume from our collection permanently, not just to move it into storage. Volumes withdrawn are always offered to other libraries or to out-of-print journal replacement services.) In addition, we propose to withdraw print periodical indexes which have been superseded by online sources or otherwise become obsolete. Complete lists of titles proposed for withdrawal are provided under the "Title Lists" tab of this site.

As volumes are withdrawn, the 3rd floor periodicals shelving will be regularized (many of the existing shelves are at irregular heights) and the remaining volumes shifted to occupy the northern end of the 3rd floor. For each periodical for which we have a current paper subscription that we archive, we will leave enough space for an estimated 10 years of volumes. The basement storage area will be reorganized to make best use of the available space for other low-demand library materials.

Our ultimate goal is not only to relieve impaction in the periodicals and storage areas, but to free up enough shelf space on the 3rd floor to relocate the monographs in the N classification (Art), currently on the 4th floor. The N section is adjacent to the P section (Language and Literature), which is also badly impacted in many areas. By moving the Ns into space previously occupied by the print periodicals, we will then be able to relieve impaction in the P section.

Proposed for withdrawal: Bound Periodicals duplicated in JSTOR

JSTOR is a growing archive to which journal volumes are continuously added once they "age in," usually after they are 3 to 7 years old. JSTOR's archives are stable and reliable, and the organization has an excellent reputation in the academic library world as being committed to preservation and responsible archiving practices. Their content includes cover-to-cover PDF copies of each journal issue. The full content of JSTOR's Arts & Sciences Collections I through VII has been purchased centrally for the CSU by the Chancellor's Office, including payment of a one-time archiving fee and ongoing maintenance costs.

We propose to withdraw only those volumes covered in JSTOR as of this year. For example: if JSTOR has holdings for a title from 1957-2003, and we have holdings from 1957-2009, we would retain our 2004-2009 volumes.

The project entails **no loss of journal content** to CSUSB users. The CSUSB community will have immediate online access to PDF copies of all journals withdrawn. The project **does not cancel any subscriptions** to current journals or indexes.

While the goal of the weeding project is to free up space in the Periodicals shelving areas, the library's microfilm and classified holdings are noted where relevant, and these copies would also be weeded if Periodicals copies were weeded.

Proposed for withdrawal: Print indexes/abstracts in Storage and the Main collection

Criteria:

1. Indexes with an electronic duplicate/equivalent (stable subscription for 7 or more years, aggregators can be suitable equivalents when appropriate).
2. Indexes with most current volume older than 10 years old – Retrospective and historical indexes excluded.
3. Indexes with short runs (less than 10 years) – Retrospective and historical indexes excluded.
4. Indexes not requested by users since placement in storage.
5. Indexes for serials not owned by CSUSB.
6. Indexes deemed obsolete in the discipline.
7. Indexes to disciplines outside of the curriculum of campus programs.

Indexes must meet at least three of the criteria noted to be eligible for withdrawal.

The above withdrawal criteria are to be used for indexes that were originally placed in storage during previous relocation projects (prior to 2007). In the future, any indexes placed in storage will also be eligible for withdrawal based on the above criteria, but only after a set has been in storage for a minimum of five years.

While in general indexes should meet at least three criteria to be considered for withdrawal, we have provisionally included a few titles that meet only two criteria, subject to the express approval of affected university departments.

In developing this list, the librarians assumed that duplication in a subscribed database need not be one-for-one. That is, an existing resource in the same subject area might provide adequate coverage without being an exact match (e.g., the ERIC education research index was considered to provide adequate coverage of the subject area covered by "Higher Education Abstracts").

Faculty Senate presentation, Oct. 15, 2013